

Ratified 9-22-05

**Department of Health
Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission
Position Statement on:
Intravenous Therapy by Licensed Practical Nurses**

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) may, under the supervision of a registered nurse, administer intravenous medications and fluids provided the LPN has had the appropriate education and practice.

Antineoplastic agents and investigational drugs may not be initiated by the licensed practical nurse, but may be monitored by the LPN under the direct supervision (WAC 246-840-010 (c) of a RN.

The LPN may perform administration of fluids, medication, TPN, blood or blood products via central venous catheters and central lines, access these lines for blood draws and administration of emergency cardiac medications via IV push **if** the following occurs:

- (1) Strict guidelines and protocols are in place
- (2) The guidelines clearly state all policies and procedures
- (3) Annual review and assessment of the LPNs knowledge, skills and abilities is conducted
- (4) Emergency cardiac medications given “IV push” shall be administered by the LPN only if
 - a. The LPN has direct supervision per WAC 246-840-010 (11) (c) or
 - b. The LPN has a current ACLS certification,
- (5) Blood or blood products shall only be given with direct supervision as per WAC 246-840-010 (11) (c).
- (6) It is within the scope of LPN practice to perform peripheral venipuncture (to start IV's or draw blood); to flush peripheral, PICC and central lines for the purpose of ensuring patency if the following occurs:
 - a. The LPN completes an annual instructional program on the initiation of peripheral IV's.
 - b. Documentation of satisfactory completion of the annual instructional program and supervised practice is on file with the employer.
 - c. Written policies and procedures are maintained by the employer.